

Dave Heineman  
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.  
Director

December 29, 2011

IN REPLY TO:

Mike Clements  
Lower Republican NRD  
P.O. Box 618  
Alma, NE 68920-0618

Dan Smith  
Middle Republican NRD  
P.O. Box 81  
Curtis, NE 69025

Jasper Fanning  
Upper Republican NRD  
P.O. Box 1140  
Imperial, NE 69033

Subject: Transmittal of Forecast of Water Supply and Depletions  
in the Republican Basin

Dear NRD Managers:

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) is providing the attached forecast of allowable surface water and ground water depletions to stream flow to comply with the requirements of Nebraska Statute 46-715(6). The forecast methodology has been previously provided and is contained within the integrated management plans of each District. The estimated forecast is provided assuming dry conditions:

- Short-Term Forecast – The water supply during 2012 (including Nebraska's Allocation and Imported Water Supply Credit) is estimated to be 298,680 acre-feet.
- Long-Term Forecast – The water supply and allowable depletion assuming several dry years, during 2022 is estimated to be 200,000 acre-feet.

Harlan County Lake is expected to provide a full irrigation supply during 2012, thus the two-year compliance standard above Guide Rock will not be in effect. The forecasted 5-year average is significantly positive, indicating Nebraska will be in compliance in 2012 even under dry conditions for that year. In fact, water use in 2012 could be well in excess of the forecasted supply and still result in compliance for that year. However, this negative balance would eventually need to be offset with underuse in subsequent years, so it is recommended that uses during 2012 be limited to the forecasted supply of 298,680 acre-feet.

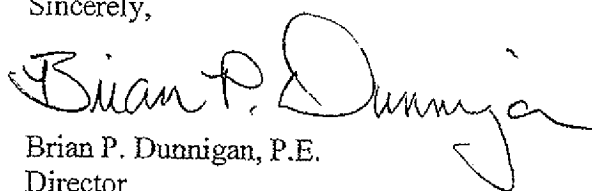
Iwm/Bradley/2011



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I appreciate the efforts of your resource districts in working to keep the state compliant with our interstate obligations.

Sincerely,

  
Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.  
Director

cc: Justin Lavene  
John Thorburn